



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 155
Seattle, WA 98101-3123

OFFICE OF
WATER AND
WATERSHEDS

DEC 19 2018

Mr. Barry Burnell, Administrator
Water Quality Division
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
1410 North Hilton
Boise, Idaho 83706

Re: DEQ's request for applicant status for the purposes of consultation under Section 7 of the ESA for the EPA's Action on Idaho's revised SSC for temperature that applies to the Hells Canyon Reach of the Snake River

Dear Mr. Burnell:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is currently coordinating with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service on our review of Idaho's revised site-specific criterion for temperature for the Snake River, from the Hells Canyon Dam to its confluence with the Salmon River, submitted to the EPA on June 8, 2012, for review and action. As we have discussed, formal consultation pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act may occur in the coming months.

We have received your letter dated December 7, 2018, requesting that the EPA recognize the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality as an "applicant" for the purposes of consultation under the ESA on Idaho's revised SSC. Consistent with 50 C.F.R. § 402.02 and the ESA Consultation Handbook, should formal consultation occur, the EPA recognizes DEQ as an applicant in the above-mentioned consultation.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (206) 553-1855, or Hanh Shaw, Manager for the Water Quality Standards Unit at (206) 553-0171 or by email at shaw.hanh@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Daniel D. Opalski".

Daniel D. Opalski
Director

cc: Jason Pappani, DEQ
Kim Kratz, NOAA
Michael Tehan, NOAA
Ritchie Graves, NOAA
Johnna Sandow, NOAA
Jason Flory, USFWS
Michael Morse, USFWS